



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

Tom Horne  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: September 23, 2005

To: Superintendents/Charter Directors  
Title IV/Prevention Coordinators  
School Safety Program Administrators

From: Jean Ajamie, Director  
School Safety and Prevention  
School Effectiveness Division

Subject: New School Safety Legislation, Resources, and Other Updates

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The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of changes in state statute that relate to school safety and to offer training and other resources around school safety issues that may be beneficial to your schools.

**School Safety Legislation**

The following bills were passed by the Arizona Legislature and became effective August 2005:

- **HB 2368** – Modifies ARS 15-341 by requiring school policies and procedures on harassment, intimidation and bullying
- **SB 1044** – Modifies ARS 15-342 by allowing schools to adopt policies requiring parental notification for law enforcement interviews of students in some situations; also modifies ARS 15-746 by clarifying the school report card requirement to report the number of incidents requiring law enforcement intervention

The complete text for these bills is enclosed. In regards to HB 2368, a definition for “bullying” is not included, therefore the following definition from the US Department of Justice might be helpful to you:

Bullying encompasses a variety of negative acts carried out repeatedly over time. It involves a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful. Bullying can be physical in form (e.g., pushing, hitting, kicking, spitting, stealing; verbal (e.g., making threats, taunting, malicious teasing, name-calling); or psychological (e.g., social exclusion, extortion, intimidation, spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships).

For incidents that rise to a criminal level, definitions for harassment and intimidation are found in state statute, ARS 13-2921 and ARS 13-1202, respectively.

**School Safety and Prevention Training and Other ADE Resources**

In addition to the new requirement for policies and procedures on harassment, intimidation and bullying, it is recommended that schools address the *prevention* of these behaviors through the implementation of research-based programs and strategies. The ADE School Safety and Prevention unit is offering a variety of professional development opportunities this school year on topics such as **bullying prevention, Positive Behavior Support, school safety laws, and parental involvement**. Please see the enclosed flyer announcing these opportunities.

Professional development on addressing bullying through character education is also offered through the Superintendent's Character Education Initiative, [www.ade.az.gov/charactered/](http://www.ade.az.gov/charactered/). Expertise on effective discipline strategies for use with bullying and other situations is available through the Superintendent's Discipline Initiative, [www.ade.gov/disciplineinitiative/](http://www.ade.gov/disciplineinitiative/).

The hurricane disaster in the southeastern United States reminds us of the need to develop and practice multi-hazard school safety plans. The ADE partners with the Arizona Division of Emergency Management to offer courses on the development of multi-hazard safety plans specifically for schools. To request a course in your area of the state, please contact your county office of emergency management (see enclosure for contact information). The minimum and recommended requirements for school safety plans, as well as sample plans and templates, can be found at [www.ade.gov/schooleffectiveness/health/schoolsafety/plansresources.asp](http://www.ade.gov/schooleffectiveness/health/schoolsafety/plansresources.asp).

**Safe and Drug-Free Schools Report**

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Report is an annual requirement for all public schools in Arizona and is due to the ADE by June 30 of each year. The report requires that bullying and intimidation on campus, among other violations, be tracked by incident and disciplinary action. While this report serves to meet federal reporting purposes, it also has the more important purpose of providing school personnel with vital data regarding their campus. The report for the 2005-2006 school year will remain basically the same as last year's report. The definitions of terms used in the report, however, will be refined and clarified to improve the accuracy of the data reported.

State-level data from the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Report and other tools containing information on the health and safety of Arizona students can be found at [www.ade.az.gov/schooleffectiveness/health/matrix/default.asp](http://www.ade.az.gov/schooleffectiveness/health/matrix/default.asp). When used in conjunction with district and school-level data, such as policy violations, this information is helpful in identifying the health and safety needs of students.

**Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program (Title IV) and Chemical Abuse Program Application**

As a reminder, the application for Title IV and Chemical Abuse Prevention has been separated out from the NCLB Consolidated Fiscal Application and is now an independent process. Prior to accessing the application, LEAs must successfully complete an Online Prevention Training, available on the ADE Website ([www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov)), through the Common Logon. If the Online Prevention Training does not appear as an option on the Common Logon menu, contact the ADE Support Center, (602) 542-7378 or (866) 577-9636. The deadline to have an application submitted and *approved* is **December 1, 2005**.

We wish you the best for a safe and productive school year. Please contact the School Safety and Prevention unit at 602-542-8730 if we can be of assistance to you.